

REMARKS

The examiner will note that claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 11, now cancelled. Accordingly, claim 1 as amended is believed to be limited to allowable subject matter as stated by the examiner in the first page of page 11 of the office action of June 15, 2005. While claim 1 has been broadened by removal of limitations now presented in new claim 27, it is submitted that claim 1 and claims 3, 5, 27, 7, 8, 17, 21, 22 and 25 are limited to allowable subject matter.

The examiner's objection to claims 7 and 8 is addressed here by amendment of these claims to depend from new claim 27.

The rejection of claims 1, 5, 8, 17, 22 and 25 for anticipation by Mercier, the rejection for obviousness over Drumm in view of Weber and Shen as applied to claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 17 and 25, the rejection of claim 3 for obviousness Mercier in view of Weber, the rejection of claim 7 for obviousness over Mercier in view of Chang and the rejection of claim 21 for obviousness over Mercier in view of Hafner are all believed to be moot in view of the present amendment to claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 11.

The rejection of claims 14, 16, 18, 24 and 26 for obviousness over Mercier in view of Miller and Chang is also believed to be moot in view of the present amendments to claim 14 which incorporate description found in paragraphs 0013 and 0031 of applicants' specification. The Miller reference teaches that its vent is operated manually or "periodically" in automatic fashion. Miller nowhere suggests an assembly for venting responsive to a sensed gas volume. Also note that in Mercier the bladder obstructs the highest portion of the liquid space within the pressure vessel and would not permit venting as taught by Miller. In Miller, vent 27 works on the principle of operation that gas can separate out from the liquid and collect in the highest portion of the tank accessible

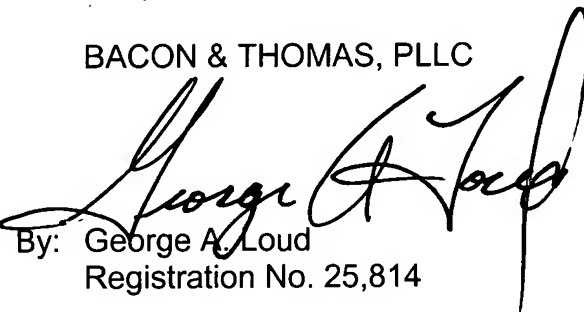
to it, and thus can be released through a vent formed in the tank at the highest point in the liquid chamber.

The examiner will note that claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form without limitation by language of cancelled claim 11. Insofar as the rejection for obviousness over Drumm in view of Weber and Shen was applied to claim 12, that rejection is respectfully traversed. The spring in Drumm referred to by the examiner which actuates the shut-off valve is not "internal to the bladder" as recited by claim 12, nor is it "attached to opposing ends of the bladder" as recited by claim 12. Further, the function of the internal spring exemplified by element 26 in Fig. 2, is different from the function of the Drumm spring which actuates the shut-off valve. The internal spring of claim 12, as described in applicants' specification, serves the purpose of preventing extrusion of the bladder into a tank fixture, which is not an issue in Drumm due to the fact that the bellows has a metal plate 16 which would serve to prevent any such extrusion.

In conclusion, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the rejections of record with a view toward allowance of the claims as amended.

Respectfully submitted,

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